

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
  - 2 transmitting data symbols from a media access control layer (MAC) processing
  - 3 element to a second processor; and
  - 4 monitoring a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the
  - 5 data symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether the RSSI value
- 2 drops below a predetermined threshold.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising monitoring the RSSI value if it is
- 2 determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising setting one or more timers if it is
- 2 determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the second processor is a baseband processor.
- 1 6. A computer system comprising a network controller, the network controller
- 2 including a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) that monitors a
- 3 receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data
- 4 symbols from the network controller has been completed.
- 1 7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein the network controller further comprises
- 2 a baseband DSP coupled to the MAC DSP, wherein the MAC DSP begins to monitor the
- 3 RSSI value after all data symbols have been transmitted from the media access layer DSP
- 4 to the baseband DSP.

- 1    8.    The computer system of claim 7 wherein the baseband DSP comprises:  
2        a baseband state machine;  
3        a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and  
4        a modulation element coupled to the coding.
- 1    9.    The computer system of claim 8 wherein the network controller further  
2    comprises:  
3        a digital to analog converter (DAC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP; and  
4        an analog to digital converter (ADC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.
- 1    10.   The computer system of claim 9 wherein the network controller further  
2    comprises:  
3        a transceiver that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP; and  
4        an antenna coupled to the transceiver.
- 1    11.   The computer system of claim 1 further comprising:  
2        a system input/output (I/O) bus coupled to the network controller;  
3        a bridge/memory controller coupled to the system I/O bus; and  
4        a processor coupled to the bridge/memory controller.
- 1    12.   A network controller comprising:  
2        a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) that monitors a  
3    receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data  
4    symbols from the network controller has been completed;  
5        a baseband DSP, coupled to the MAC DSP; and  
6        a digital to audio converter DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.
- 1    13.   The network controller of claim 12 wherein the baseband DSP comprises:  
2        a baseband state machine;

3           a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and  
4           a modulation element coupled to the coding element.

1       14.   The network controller of claim 12 further comprising:  
2           a transceiver, coupled to the DAC DSP, that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP;  
3       and  
4           an antenna coupled to the transceiver.

1       15.   An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that  
2       embody a program of instructions wherein the program of instructions, when executed by  
3       a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:

4           transmit data symbols from a media access control layer (MAC); and  
5           monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the data  
6       symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.

1       16.   The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein the program of instructions, when  
2       executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to determine whether the  
3       RSSI value drops below a predetermined threshold.

1       17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a  
2       processing unit, further causes the processing unit to monitor the RSSI value if it is  
3       determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.

1       18.   The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a  
2       processing unit, further causes the processing unit to set one or more timers if it is  
3       determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.